

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANKARA 07408 061119Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /070 W
-----085719 070232Z /12

R 060840Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9089
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA POUCH
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL POUCH
AMCONSUL IZMIR POUCH

UNCLAS ANKARA 7408

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TU
SUBJECT: DISCORD WITHIN DISK

1. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS KEMAL TURKLER, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH REVOLUTIONARY/REFORMIST TRADE UNIONS (DISK), HAS BEEN PRESSING AHEAD WITH HIS ADVOCACY OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (ULUSAL DEMOKRATIK CEPHE - UDC) AND HAS ENDEAVORED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO SECURE A CLEAR ENDORSEMENT OF THE UDC BY DISK ITSELF. MODERATES WITHIN THE DISK LEADERSHIP HAVE OBJECTED TO TURKLER'S PROPOSALS AND TACTICS AND HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RECURRING SHIFTS TO THE LEFT IN DISK POLICY WHICH HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED BY TURKLER AND HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES. THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION WITHIN THE DISK LEADERSHIP WERE REVEALED OCT. 4 WHEN THE DISK MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORTEDLY VOTED BY A NARROW MARGIN AGAINST TURKLER'S CALL FOR AN EXTRA-ORDINARY DELEGATE CONVENTION OF DISK AND IN FAVOR OF REPLACING THE DISK SECRETARY GENERAL MEHMET KARACA. THE PICTURE REMAINS CONFUSED WITH CONFLICTING CLAIMS BEING MADE BY THE VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS INVOLVED.

2. THE UDC WAS FORMED IN MID-JUNE (SEE ANKARA A-73) BY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ANKARA 07408 061119Z

LEADERS OF 26-LEFT-WING ORGANIZATIONS, DISK PRESIDENT KEMAL TURKLER PROMINENT AMONG THEM, FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNITING THE "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES IN THE POLITICAL CONTEXT FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTIONS. AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE DEMIREL COALITION GOVERNMENT, THE UDC WAS TOUTED AS A RALLYING POINT FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES TO BRING DOWN THE "FASCISTS" AND INSTALL A GOVERNMENT "MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE." HOWEVER, IN A KEY MANEUVER,

THE UDC ENDEAVORED TO ENLIST THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), BUT FAILED. IT APPEARED AT THE TIME (MID-SEPTEMBER) THAT DISK PRESIDENT TURKLER INTENDED TO PUT THE UDC IDEA INTO COLD STORAGE. HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS TURKLER CONTINUED TO PUSH FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE UDC CONCEPT.

3. MEETINGS WERE HELD SEPT. 24-26 AT GONEN WITH THE DISK EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARDS AND THE COUNCIL OF DISK UNION PRESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE. TURKLER ADVOCATED UDC VIGOROUSLY, ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED WITH OBJECTIONS AND COUNTER-ARGUMENTS. HE WAS CRITICIZED ESPECIALLY FOR LAUNCHING UDC BEFORE A DISK POLICY DECISION HAD BEEN DRAWN UP AND APPROVED AND FOR USING UDC SLOGANS COPIED AFTER MOTTOS FROM RADICAL ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD. THE MODERATES (RPP FOLLOWERS) ALSO ARGUED THAT DISK WAS A MASS ORGANIZATION ENCOMPASSING VARIOUS POLITICAL VIEWS AND THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE TO CALL FOR DISK IDENTIFICATION WITH UDC. AS NO DECISION COULD BE REACHED, THE GONEN MEETINGS ENDED WITH A PROPOSAL THAT THE MATTER BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT A MEETING OF DISK REGIONAL AND UNION REPRESENTATIVES ON OCT. 9.

4. TURKLER CALLED ON RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT SHORTLY AFTER THE GONEN MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN HIS "FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY." HOWEVER, AGAIN ECEVIT REFUSED TO LINK THE RPP TO THE UDC AND INSTEAD ISSUED A BLAND STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE RPP AND DISK WERE NECESSARILY DIFFERENT, ONE BEING A POLITICAL PARTY, THE OTHER A LABOR UNION. BOTH, HE SAID, SHOULD CONTRIBUTE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ANKARA 07408 061119Z

TO SOLIDARITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN TURKEY. UNDAUNTED, TURKLER HELD MEETINGS OCT. 1 AND 2 WITH REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES IN IZMIR AND ADANA. AGAIN HE ENCOUNTERED SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE MODERATES IN OPPOSITION TO TURKLER'S UDC POLICY HAVE USED EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS TO ASSERT THEIR POSITION FURTHER. ON OCT. 3 BY A VOTE OF 4 TO 3 THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDED TO DISMISS SEVEN DISK STAFFERS, ACCUSING THEM OF TRYING TO FORMULATE DISK POLICY ON THEIR OWN AND OF USING DISK PUBLICATIONS FOR THAT PURPOSE. TURKLER RESPONDED BY DEMANDING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE STAFFERS AND ISSUING A PUBLIC CALL FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY DISK DELEGATE CONVENTION ON OCT. 21-22. ON OCT. 4 BY 21 TO 7, THE MANAGEMENT BOARD VOTED AGAINST THE CALL FOR THE CONVENTION, ENDORSED THE DISMISSAL OF THE SEVEN STAFFERS, CANCELLED THE OCT. 9 REPRESENTATIVES MEETING, DECIDED TO REPLACE DISK SECRETARY GENERAL MEHMET KARACA, AND ASSIGNED HAKKI OZTURK, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF MADEN-IS, TO TAKE KARACA'S PLACE.

6. THE LINE UP IN THIS CONTEST OF WILLS HAS THE PRO-RPP AND SOME OTHER LEFTIST TRADE UNIONISTS ON THE ONE SIDE SEEKING TO FOLLOW A

MODERATE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND TURKLER AND THE "ANTI-FASCIST" RADICALS (LARGELY FROM THE MADEN-IS UNION) ON THE OTHER SEEKING A MORE MILITANT POSTURE FOR DISK. THE CONFUSION HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE APPEARANCE OF A GROUP OF 100 OR SO TURKLER SUPPORTERS FROM MADEN-IS AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE PROGRESSIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION (IGD), WHICH HAS ATTEMPTED SOME VERBAL INTIMIDATION AND PUSHING AND SHOVING AGAINST THE FOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL THE VOTING IN THE BOARDS. THIS TACTIC HAS APPARENTLY MADE THE MODERATES MORE STUBBORN AND THWARTED POSSIBILITIES FOR COMPROMISE.

7. TURKLER HAS REPEATED HIS CALL FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES MEETING ON OCT. 9 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY DELEGATE CONVENTION OCT. 21-22
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ANKARA 07408 061119Z

AND HAS ACCUSED THE EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARDS OF EXCEEDING THEIR AUTHORITY. HE DECLARED THE REMOVAL OF SECGEN KARACA INVALID AND ADVISED DISK MEMBERS NOT TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY ANY PROVOCATION. THE TWO SECRETARIES GENERAL REPORTEDLY ARE BOTH WORKING IN THE DISK HEADQUARTERS, EACH DECLARING THE OTHER TO BE ILLEGITIMATE.
SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR POLICY LINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA07408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770365-0964
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771089/aaaacxsm.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 695d8d35-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1017739
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCORD WITHIN DISK
TAGS: ELAB, TU, DISK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/695d8d35-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009